

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An electronic prescription handling system comprising:

(a) a first computer configured to transmit a prescription by a physician;

(b) a server communicatively connected to the first computer and functionally distinct therefrom, wherein the server is configured to receive the prescription from the first computer and, wherein the server is remote from the first computer and is operated by a service provider;

(c) a first pharmacy having a first pharmacy computer communicatively connected to the server, wherein[[:]] the first pharmacy computer is configured to:

retrieve the prescription from the server; and

~~the first pharmacy computer is configured to~~ transmit a first bid for the prescription to the server, wherein the first bid is stored on the server;

(d) a second pharmacy having a second pharmacy computer communicatively connected to the server, wherein[[:]] the second pharmacy computer is configured to:

retrieve the prescription from the server; and

~~the second pharmacy computer is configured to~~ transmit a second bid for the prescription to the server, wherein the second bid is stored on the server; and

(e) a second computer communicatively connected to the server, wherein[[:]] the second computer is operated by a patient and is configured to:

retrieve the first bid and the second bid; and

~~the second computer is configured to~~ select one of (i) the first bid, and (ii) the second bid[[:]], such that when the first bid is

selected, the first pharmacy fills the prescription[[:]], and when the second bid is selected, the second pharmacy fills the prescription.

Claim 2 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 1, further comprising a portable storage medium configured to be interfaced with the first computer, wherein the portable storage medium includes an application for transmitting a digital certificate to the server when the portable storage medium interfaces with the first computer.

Claim 3 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 2, wherein the portable storage medium is one of (i) a CD-ROM, (ii) a DVD-ROM, and (iii) flash memory.

Claim 4 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 2, wherein the server is configured to authenticate the digital certificate.

Claim 5 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 4, wherein the server is further configured to transmit a prescription entry web page to the first computer upon the server authenticating the digital certificate.

Claim 6 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 5, wherein the server comprises:

a pharmaceutical database for storing a plurality of drug formularies therein;
and
a physician database utilized to authenticate the digital certificate.

Claim 7 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 6, wherein the server further comprises:

a prescription database for storing the prescription received from the first computer;
a patient database for storing patient information;

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a pharmacy database for storing pharmacy data; and
a bid database for storing the first bid and the second bid.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 7, wherein the patient information comprises at least one of (i) an insurance provider identifier for a the patient, (ii) a medical history for the patient, (iii) a drug interaction list for the patient, and (iv) an allergic reaction list for the patient.

Claim 9 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 7, wherein the pharmacy data comprises contact information for one of (i) the first pharmacy and, (ii) the second pharmacy.

Claim 10 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 9, wherein the server is further configured to transmit at least one of (i) an address of the first pharmacy or second pharmacy, and (ii) a set of directions from the first pharmacy or second pharmacy to an address specified by the second computer.

Claim 11 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 10, wherein the server is further configured to transmit a map illustrating the address on the map of one of (i) the first pharmacy, and (ii) the second pharmacy.

Claim 12 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 1, wherein the first pharmacy is one of a brick-and-mortar pharmacy and an online pharmacy.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method for issuing a prescription, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a prescription from a first computer by a physician;

receiving the prescription on a server functionally distinct from the first computer, wherein the server is remote from the first computer and is operated by a service provider;

retrieving the prescription from the server;

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submitting a first bid for the prescription to the server from a first pharmacy having a first pharmacy computer;

submitting a second bid for the prescription to the server from a second pharmacy having a second pharmacy computer;

storing the first bid and the second bid on the server;

transmitting the first bid and the second bid to a second computer operated by a patient;

viewing the first bid and the second bid on the second computer;

making a selection consisting of one of (i) the first bid, and (ii) the second bid;

transmitting the selection to the server; and

informing one of (i) the first pharmacy, and (ii) the second pharmacy to fill the prescription.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

interfacing a portable storage medium with the first computer, wherein the portable storage medium includes an application for transmitting a digital certificate; and

transmitting the digital certificate to the server.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

authenticating the digital certificate on the server; and

transmitting a prescription entry web page to the first computer.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of transmitting to the second computer at least one of:

contact information of one of (i) the first pharmacy, and (ii) the second pharmacy;

a set of directions from one of (i) the first pharmacy, and (ii) the second pharmacy to an address specified by the second computer; and

a map illustrating an address on the map of one of (i) the first pharmacy, and
(ii) the second pharmacy.

Claim 17 (Original): An electronic prescription handling system comprising:
a computer;
a server communicatively connected to the computer;
a portable storage medium configured to interface with the computer;
an application residing on the portable storage medium, wherein the
application is configured to execute once the portable storage medium interfaces with the
computer, further wherein the application is configured to transmit a digital certificate to the
server upon the application sensing a network connection to the server; and

means for authenticating the digital certificate on the server, wherein when the
digital certificate is positively authenticated, the server transmits a prescription entry web
page to the computer, further wherein a user of the computer enters a prescription into the
prescription entry web page, and thereafter the computer transmits the prescription to the
server.

Claim 18 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 17,
wherein the portable storage medium is one of (i) a CD-ROM, (ii) a DVD-ROM, and (iii)
flash memory.

Claim 19 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 17,
wherein the digital certificate identifies a physician.

Claim 20 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 18,
wherein the digital certificate is hidden on the portable storage medium.

Claim 21 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 20,
wherein the digital certificate cannot be copied from the portable storage medium.

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Claim 22 (Original): The electronic prescription handling system of claim 19,
wherein the server transmits the prescription to a pharmacy.